

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

RECEIVED

NOV 24 2000

Technology Center 2100

Applicant's or agent's file reference GR 97 P 3904 P	FOR FURTHER ACTION See Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/IPEA/416)	
International application No. PCT/EP98/07660	International filing date (day/month/year) 27 November 1998 (27.11.98)	Priority date (day/month/year) 01 December 1997 (01.12.97)
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC G05B 19/418, 19/042		
Applicant SIEMENS AKTIENGESELLSCHAFT		

1. This international preliminary examination report has been prepared by this International Preliminary Examining Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.

2. This REPORT consists of a total of 6 sheets, including this cover sheet.

☒ This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, i.e., sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications made before this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT).

These annexes consist of a total of 2 sheets.

3. This report contains indications relating to the following items:

- I ☒ Basis of the report
- II ☐ Priority
- III ☐ Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
- IV ☐ Lack of unity of invention
- V ☒ Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
- VI ☐ Certain documents cited
- VII ☒ Certain defects in the international application
- VIII ☒ Certain observations on the international application

Date of submission of the demand 28 May 1999 (28.05.99)	Date of completion of this report 07 March 2000 (07.03.2000)
Name and mailing address of the IPEA/EP	Authorized officer
Facsimile No.	Telephone No.

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

International application No.

PCT/EP98/07660

I. Basis of the report

1. This report has been drawn on the basis of *(Replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to the report since they do not contain amendments.)*:

- ☒ the international application as originally filed.
- ☐ the description, pages 1-15, as originally filed,
 pages _____, filed with the demand,
 pages _____, filed with the letter of _____,
 pages _____, filed with the letter of _____.
- ☒ the claims, Nos. _____, as originally filed,
 Nos. _____, as amended under Article 19,
 Nos. _____, filed with the demand,
 Nos. 1-4, filed with the letter of 02 March 2000 (02.03.2000),
 Nos. _____, filed with the letter of _____.
- ☒ the drawings, sheets/fig 1/2,2/2, as originally filed,
 sheets/fig _____, filed with the demand,
 sheets/fig _____, filed with the letter of _____,
 sheets/fig _____, filed with the letter of _____.

2. The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

- ☐ the description, pages _____
- ☐ the claims, Nos. _____
- ☐ the drawings, sheets/fig _____

3. ☐ This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2(c)).

4. Additional observations, if necessary:

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

International application No.
PCT/EP 98/07660

V. Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Claims	1-4	YES
	Claims		NO
Inventive step (IS)	Claims	1-4	YES
	Claims		NO
Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims	1-4	YES
	Claims		NO

2. Citations and explanations

This report makes reference to the following documents
(D) :

- D1: US-A-5 689 662 (BELFIORE JOSEPH D. ET AL.), 18
November 1997
- D2: CAROLINE HALLIDAY, DAVID GOBEL, MARK MINASI: "Using
OS/2", 1989, QUE CORPORATION, ISBN 0-8022-375-8,
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, XP002100979
- D3: EP-A-0 477 760
- D4: EP-A-0 592 921.

D3 and D4 were not listed in the search report.

- The subject matter of the application is a method for the screen-supported definition and parameterisation of a software interface of a software component of an industrial automation system according to the preamble of Claim 1.

This prior art is acknowledged in the introductory part of the description.

- Documents D1 and D2 do not concern the definition and parameterisation of software interfaces of

software components, nor industrial automation systems.

D1 deals with the possibility of extending components of graphic user surfaces; it essentially describes the functionality of the generally known "Windows" operating systems and screen surfaces. D2 likewise deals with an operating system, system OS/2, which is the competitor of the above-mentioned operating system.

Those documents do not describe any attribute that can be defined and parameterised on screen.

3. D3 is likewise far removed, since it deals with a programming method and not with the parameterisation and definition of software interfaces. Furthermore, the programming method described in D3 is limited to the linking of graphic symbols on screen which correspond to non-divisible individual functions of the computer that runs the software.
4. Document D4 deals with a process control system with a graphic attribute interface.

The representation of the display window with its two partial windows and hierarchy shows certain similarities with the present application (cf. Fig. 2).

However, D4 does not deal with attributes that can be edited, defined and parameterised.

The characterising measures of Claim 1 are therefore not known from the prior art, even when the

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

International application No.
PCT/EP 98/07660

teachings of the reference documents are combined, nor can those documents provide any hints to a person skilled in the art. The subject matter of Claim 1 is therefore novel and also involves an inventive step.

The same applies to the features of dependent Claims 2-4.

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

International application No.
PCT/EP 98/07660

VII. Certain defects in the international application

The following defects in the form or contents of the international application have been noted:

The introductory part of the description still needs to be brought into line with the new subject matter of the claims.

In addition, it should acknowledge in the introductory part the prior art searched during the examination proceedings (D1 to D4).

VIII. Certain observations on the international application

The following observations on the clarity of the claims, description, and drawings or on the question whether the claims are fully supported by the description, are made:

The original description (page 3, lines 8-13) mentions that the attributes of the selected interface parameters can be represented and/or edited, and also that the interface parameters can be edited directly on screen at all times.

These explanations appear to be contradictory and not suitable to ensure the required support of Claim 1 by the description. This wording in the description could raise doubts regarding whether the attributes and/or the interface parameters are to be definable and parameterisable.

Moreover, the "and/or" clause in line 10, page 3 of the description, is not consistent with the content of Claim 1 and should be replaced by an "and" clause.